

PATENT**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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In re Application of: REN ET AL.

Confirmation No.: 5019

DEC 23 2003

Serial No.: 09/834,701

Group Art Unit: 2172

OFFICIAL

Filed: April 12, 2001

Examiner: TRUONG, CAM Y T

For: ADVANCED METHOD AND SYSTEM
OF AUTOMATIC POPULATION AND
MAINTENANCE OF A WEB-BASED
DATABASE

Attorney Docket: REN,01B

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

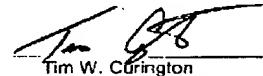
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37 C.F.R. 1.8 & 1.10

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Tim W. Curington

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW
DATED TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2003

Dear Sir:

The following is in response to the Official Communication mailed November 25, 2003 regarding an Interview Summary:

On Tuesday, November 18, 2003 a telephone interview was conducted regarding the above referenced patent application number 09/834,701. The participants in the telephone interview were Examiner Cam Y Truong, Attorney Tim W. Curington and Applicant Tom Ren.

The subject matter of the interview was a discussion regarding the final rejection of the above-referenced application in view of two (2) primary references: USPN 6,269,369 (Robertson) and USPN 6,427,164 (Reilly). Robertson discloses a Personal Contact Manager while Reilly discloses a server for providing email forwarding addresses.

Applicant put forth the following argument:

"The present application discloses a database having several limitations not found in either of the cited references. Unlike the cited references, the database of the present invention uses a "passive" system. In other words, the end user does not have to act for his/her records to automatically populate the database. In most cases, the end user is completely unaware of the automatic population until receipt of the automatically transmitted access account.

Both Robertson and Reilly use database systems that require the end user to perform some act that triggers population within a database. In Robertson, the end user opens up an account to actively pursue being a member of the personal contact database. In Reilly, the end user actively provides a forwarding email address such that the system server can use the forwarding address for delivering "undeliverable" mail."

After the discussion, Examiner Truong invited Applicant to provide proposed claim amendments.

In response, Applicant provided the following proposed amendments:

"As discussed, I am sending you proposed claim amendments that include the limitation of the *database being automatically populated without any action taken by the end users*. Both of the cited references (Robinson and Reilly) require some action taken by the end user in order for their records to be included in the database system.

1. (amended) A method of automatically populating, maintaining and updating a web-based database, the method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) receiving records of individuals from an existing database automatically and without action taken by the individuals;
 - (b) populating a web-based database with the individual records;
 - (c) creating an access account for each individual record;
 - (d) transmitting the access account to the individuals; and
 - (e) enabling remote maintenance of the individual records by use of the access account.

17. (amended) A remotely accessible data storage system, comprising:

- (a) a database automatically populated with existing customer data records without action taken by the customer;
- (b) an account generator provided for creating access numbers for the customer data records;
- (c) a broadcast system provided for distributing the access numbers to the customer; and
- (d) an update system provided to enable customer access to the data records by use of the access numbers."

Mr. Curington placed a follow-up phone call to Examiner Truong to discuss the proposed amendments. Examiner Truong indicated that the proposed amendments avoided the cited references but would require further consideration. Examiner Truong suggested that a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) be filed along with the Response to the Final Action.

Applicant filed both the Response to the Final Action and the RCE on December 15, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,



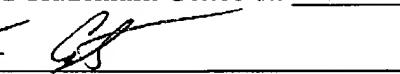
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Signed 
Tim W. Curington

Identification of Submitted Papers:

Attachments (3 pages);
Page 1-3: Interview Summary

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